

# Social Entrepreneurship and its Impact on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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**Abstract**– *The challenges in implementing social entrepreneurship cannot be ignored. One significant barrier is the lack of understanding of the synergies and trade-offs between the various SDGs. Social and cultural barriers that can hinder the success of women entrepreneurs, especially in areas with strict traditional norms. The purpose of this study is to analyze the role of social entrepreneurship and its impact on sustainable development as an effort to explore opportunities to produce goods and services. The research method used is a case study is an approach commonly used in various disciplines, especially in the social and business fields, data collection techniques using in-depth interviews and observations that allow researchers to gain a more introspective and individual perspective, data analysis with triangulation includes observation, interviews and documentation studies. The results of this data analysis are that social entrepreneurship can have an impact on sustainable development with efforts to explore various social communities in improving skills in business but still have an impact in helping to create transparency and encourage community participation in sustainable development.*

**Keywords:** *social entrepreneurship, sustainable development goals.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Social entrepreneurship can be understood as a model that does not only focus on economic profit, but also seeks to create positive social and environmental impacts. This is relevant because the SDGs require integration between economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection [1]. The challenges in implementing social entrepreneurship cannot be ignored. One significant obstacle is the lack of understanding of the synergies and trade-offs between the various SDGs, where some goals are positive developments, while others have trade-offs that must be considered [2]. Therefore, it is important for social entrepreneurs to have a holistic and comprehensive approach in evaluating the impact of their initiatives on all dimensions of sustainable development.

Significant challenges remain, both in terms of policy and infrastructure. For example, there are often social and cultural barriers that can hinder the success of women entrepreneurs, especially in areas with strict traditional norms [3]. To address these issues, the existence of policies that support the empowerment of social entrepreneurs through access to capital and markets is critical [4]. Strategies to create an enabling environment, such as investment in information and communication technology, can help create transparency and encourage community participation in sustainable development. [5].

The development of social entrepreneurship has significant potential in advancing sustainability in various aspects. Entrepreneurship contributes significantly to the three pillars of sustainable development, namely economic, social, and environmental [6]. Sustainable entrepreneurship seeks to explore and utilize opportunities to produce goods and services that are in accordance with sustainable values [7].

The importance of an approach that takes into account socio-economic aspects in post-pandemic community development, where community-based decisions can support sustainable development [8]. The concept of social entrepreneurship does not only focus on financial gain, but also includes a social mission that aims to solve social and environmental problems that exist in society. Research shows that social entrepreneurship initiatives can have a positive impact on sustainable development by empowering marginalized groups, including women and communities in slum areas. [9].

Thus, social entrepreneurship plays an important role in sustainable development. Social entrepreneurship can act as a catalyst in achieving sustainable development by creating jobs, empowering communities, and improving social welfare. However, to achieve maximum results, collaboration and support from various parties, including the government, private sector, and civil



society, are needed to ensure that all elements of the social entrepreneurship ecosystem work synergistically towards the same goal [10]. This captures the essence of the SDGs and shows that to achieve these goals, collaboration between government, communities, and the private sector is key to creating innovative and sustainable solutions.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Social Entrepreneurship

Social entrepreneurship has emerged as a crucial domain aimed at addressing complex social challenges through innovative solutions and sustainable practices. The essence of social entrepreneurship lies in its dual focus on social impact and economic viability, distinguishing it from traditional entrepreneurial endeavors. Defined broadly, social entrepreneurship is described as a process that creates innovative solutions to social problems while mobilizing necessary resources for sustainable social transformations [10] , [11] .

One foundational concept in social entrepreneurship is the integration of social innovation with entrepreneurial practices. As highlighted by Cunha et al., social entrepreneurship encompasses individuals with a drive for social change and larger systemic transformations facilitated by innovative approaches [12] . Emphasize the importance of sustainable strategies for managing social projects that enable the mobilization of community resources toward common social goals [10] .

Social entrepreneurship typically begins with identifying a social opportunity and transitioning into developing a business model that can harness necessary resources to implement solutions, as documented by [6] . This model is not merely altruistic; personal fulfillment is recognized as a significant motivator for individuals engaging in social enterprise, as noted by [13] . The blend of altruistic goals with economic activities creates a unique dynamic where social enterprises aim to solve pressing societal issues while ensuring financial sustainability [14] .

Social entrepreneurs are manifold, particularly concerning collaboration and support from various stakeholders. Institutional support has been shown to enhance the performance of social innovations [15] . Social entrepreneurship is crucial

for nurturing future social innovators. This approach is increasingly recognized as essential for fostering a generation capable of tackling the multifaceted challenges faced by their communities through social entrepreneurship [16] .

Social entrepreneurship underscores its importance as a transformative force for societal change. By integrating innovative practices with social value creation, social entrepreneurs play a critical role in fostering sustainable development while simultaneously addressing social inequalities. Continued exploration of collaborative models, educational methodologies, and systemic support will further enhance the impact of social entrepreneurship in diverse global contexts.

### 2.2 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all by 2030. The SDGs consist of 17 interlinked global goals set by the United Nations in 2015, encompassing social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The holistic nature of the SDGs requires integrated approaches that consider the multifaceted interactions among various goals, particularly as they relate to sectors such as education, health, and environmental management [17] .

The SDGs are intrinsically connected to the notion of sustainable development, which seeks to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This connection underscores the importance of effective environmental management practices such as solid waste management (SWM), which has been shown to facilitate the achievement of multiple SDGs by improving urban environments and community health [18] . For example, SDG 11 emphasizes the need for sustainable cities and communities, which can be advanced through strategic waste management practices that reduce pollution and enhance quality of life [18] .

There is an increasing emphasis on corporate social responsibility (CSR) and the need for transparent communication regarding sustainability efforts [19] . Organizations are encouraged to avoid "cherry-picking" specific goals that align with their interests while neglecting others, a practice often



referred to as "SDG-washing," where companies make superficial claims without substantial commitments to sustainable practices [19]. In essence, genuine engagement with the SDGs requires holistic approaches that align operational practices with the principles of sustainability across all facets of business.

Education is another foundational pillar for achieving the SDGs, highlighted as both a standalone goal (SDG 4) and as a critical element for empowering individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to drive social and environmental change [20]. Higher education institutions (HEIs) are positioned as key actors in this landscape, capable of fostering interdisciplinary collaboration to support SDG implementation [17], [21]. The incorporation of sustainability concepts into curricula, research activities, and community engagement initiatives is essential for preparing future leaders to tackle sustainability challenges [22].

Sustainable Development Goals offer a comprehensive framework that requires collaborative, innovative, and integrated approaches across sectors and disciplines. Addressing the challenges related to the SDGs involves a concerted effort from governments, businesses, education systems, and civil societies to work towards an inclusive and sustainable future.

### III. RESEARCH METHODS

The case study research method is a commonly used approach in various disciplines, especially in the social and business fields, because it allows researchers to explore phenomena in depth within a particular context. This method involves collecting qualitative data from a small number of relevant subjects or cases, with a focus on a comprehensive understanding of the context and dynamics within it. Case studies often adopt a qualitative approach, which has proven effective when the issues being studied cannot be fully measured or quantified [23].

Data collection techniques through in-depth interviews and observations that allow researchers to gain a more introspective and individual perspective, and explore the nuances that exist in complex social interactions. However, there is no strong support from other references for a comprehensive statement regarding qualitative approaches in this context,

Research on social entrepreneurship uses qualitative methods that not only provide narrative information but also allow researchers to identify patterns and themes that may not be apparent in quantitative analysis [24]. The importance of narrative and case studies in building theory and understanding the context of social entrepreneurship is emphasized by noting that these approaches can reveal aspects and complexities that are often hidden in numerical data, although this statement needs further support from the relevant literature.

Case study data analysis techniques use triangulation as an important technique in case studies that involve the use of multiple data sources to strengthen the results. This includes combining techniques such as in-depth interviews, field observations, and document analysis [25]. This, used in comparing data from various sources, researchers can obtain a more holistic and accurate picture of the phenomenon being studied.

Thus, the case study design research method can analyze the local context and social processes behind the social entrepreneurship phenomenon. This approach not only builds a richer understanding but also draws attention to factors that may be overlooked in other research approaches.

### IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on research results, social entrepreneurship, as an initiative that combines business objectives with social missions, plays an important role in encouraging the resolution of social and economic issues based on the principles of sustainable development. In the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), social entrepreneurship offers a market-based approach to addressing local problems and supporting the social economy and sustainable community development.



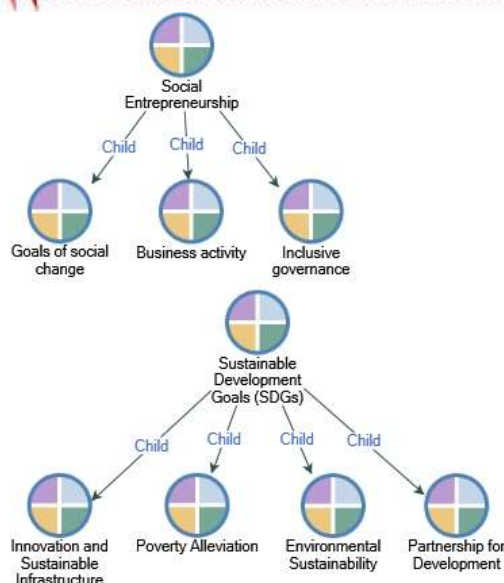


Figure 1. Project Map of Social Entrepreneurship and SDGs

Source: NVivo pro 12, 2024 data processing results

Based on the results of the image analysis above, the elements of social entrepreneurship have an impact on sustainable development identified from several indicators of the 2nd cause. This supports product innovation, training, and support for the use of local resources as the key to the success of this entrepreneurship in overcoming existing social and cultural barriers [26]. This shows the relevance of social entrepreneurship not only to address gender inequality, but also as an instrument to achieve several SDGs goals, including poverty alleviation (SDG 1) and gender equality (SDG 5).

The development of socially and environmentally responsible social enterprise initiatives. Using a structuralism approach, they found that Islamic finance can be a catalyst in encouraging programs that focus on sustainability and social responsibility in society [27]. Emphasize the necessity for governments to develop tools that measure the impact and performance of social entrepreneurship in relation to the SDGs, suggesting that effective policies can enhance the capacities of social entrepreneurs [18].

The importance of collaborative innovation in achieving sustainable development goals, where the contribution of social entrepreneurs and innovation can strengthen community resilience in the long term [28]. This reflects the tendency that in the era of globalization and digitalization, social

entrepreneurs can adapt and innovate in relation to new technologies to achieve positive effects on the SDGs.

Social entrepreneurship is not only focused on economic metrics but includes a multi-dimensional framework that integrates social, economic and environmental values, creating a more comprehensive view of social entrepreneurship performance across contexts [29]. Efforts to consider interrelated social, economic and ecological benefits, as well as sustainable livelihood-based approaches [29]. Therefore, indicators used in social entrepreneurship can reflect the dimensions of community resilience to challenges, such as poverty and inequality, which can also be measured through clear socio-economic indicators.

The role of social entrepreneurs in supporting the SDGs is crucial, especially in the context of community empowerment and local capacity building. Through inclusive development that prioritizes social principles, social enterprises not only contribute to the local economy but also support comprehensive strategies to achieve sustainable development goals holistically.

Thus, by looking at the role of social entrepreneurship in terms of providing opportunities, improving education, and innovation, we can develop a measurement framework that helps identify and optimize the impact of social entrepreneurship initiatives in society.

## V. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the results of research that has been carried out by identifying cases of phenomena regarding social entrepreneurship that have an impact on sustainable development, this is reviewed from various existing aspects. Social entrepreneurs can play an important role in fostering sustainable development, encouraging the resolution of social and economic issues based on the principles of sustainable development. Through innovation and opportunities in social entrepreneurship, it provides encouragement for sustainable development, especially in minimizing poverty problems within a region.

As for suggestions for further researchers, hopefully they can analyze in depth the role of social entrepreneurs in concrete terms in sustainable development efforts. Further research could explore



the role of each of these categories in local and global contexts and how each can be optimized to support larger social goals.

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